

Oakham Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I do understand why this is largely a "tick box" exercise. However, I would much rather highlight what I consider to be a few key overarching issues for Oakham's future — so that I am contributing towards a clearer vision, with a limited number of key priorities, rather than the plethora of relatively minor issues set out on the form.

I consider the following to be the key issues: —

1. Whilst further development is inevitable, it should only proceed alongside improved community facilities — especially the current inadequate medical + educational facilities which are clearly overstretched. Development should not take place outside what is now a natural boundary of Burley Park Road.
2. The town centre should not be tinkered with — maintain the High Street as it is, save for banning heavy vehicles except for access. The Council should not encourage rate / rent free charity shops any further, but instead assist businesses through discretionary rate relief.
3. The medical centre appears totally inadequate — lack of capacity. Pressure should be applied to address this.
4. Become more innovative, rather than just more of everything eg. ban all day parking in certain long term car parks, offset by financially assisting full time town centre staff (especially at the Council) to car share — with an out of town parking facility where staff could park, & then use a single vehicle to ferry a "car load" in — use the Enterprise Park for this.

I hope this is seen as constructive rather than just declining to complete the form.